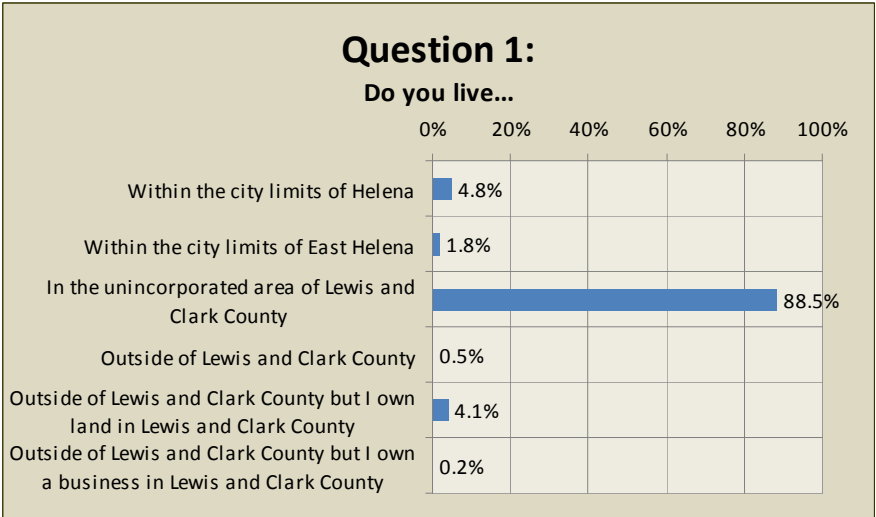


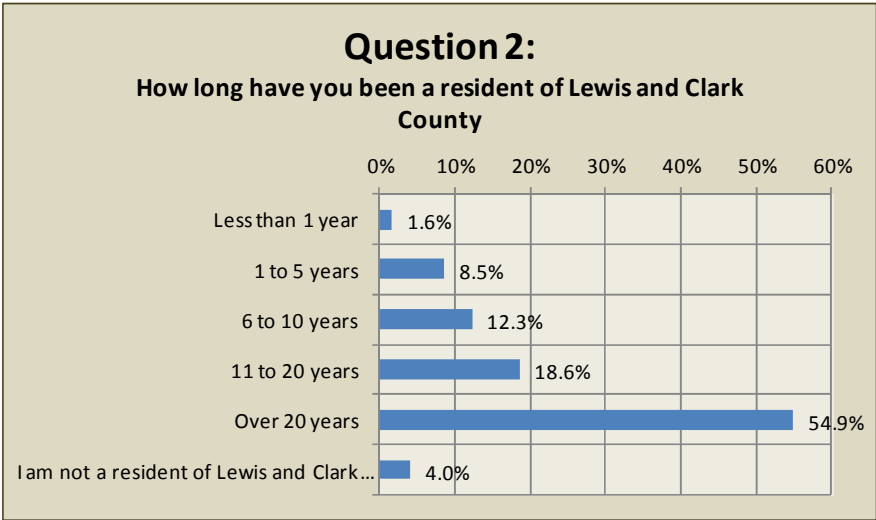
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

QUESTION 1: DO YOU LIVE...



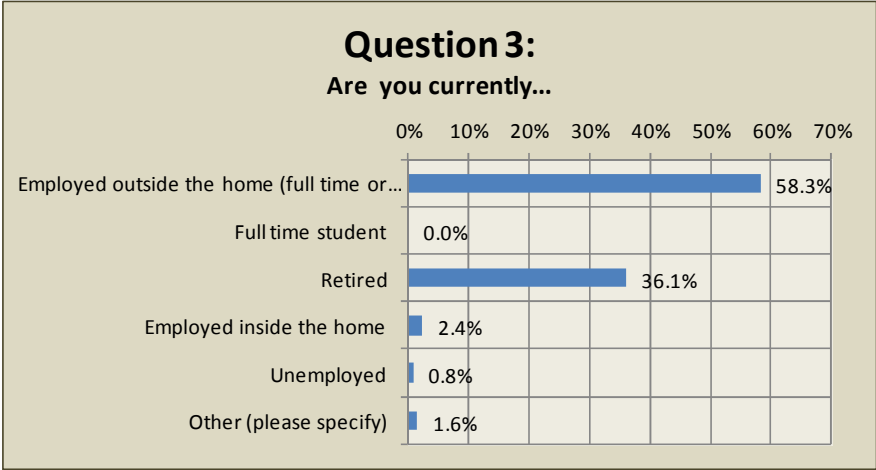
Within the city limits of Helena	4.8%
Within the city limits of East Helena	1.8%
In the unincorporated area of Lewis and Clark County	88.5%
Outside of Lewis and Clark County	0.5%
Outside of Lewis and Clark County but I own land in Lewis and Clark County	4.1%
Outside of Lewis and Clark County but I own a business in Lewis and Clark County	0.2%

QUESTION 2: HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A RESIDENT OF LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY?



Less than 1 year	1.6%
1 to 5 years	8.5%
6 to 10 years	12.3%
11 to 20 years	18.6%
Over 20 years	54.9%
I am not a resident of Lewis and Clark County	4.0%

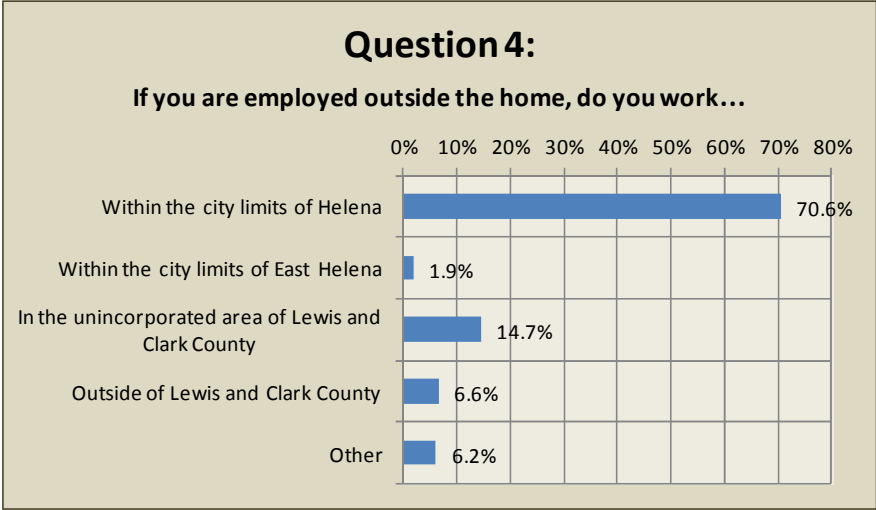
QUESTION 3: ARE YOU CURRENTLY...



Employed outside the home (full time or part time)	58.3%
Full time student	0.0%
Retired	36.1%
Employed inside the home	2.4%
Unemployed	0.8%
Other (please specify)	1.6%

Note: Results shown here do not include multiple responses totaling 0.9%

QUESTION 4: IF YOU ARE EMPLOYED OUTSIDE THE HOME, DO YOU WORK...



Within the city limits of Helena	70.6%
Within the city limits of East Helena	1.9%
In the unincorporated area of Lewis and Clark County	14.7%
Outside of Lewis and Clark County	6.6%
Other	6.2%

Summary Q1-Q4 - The average survey respondent lives in the unincorporated areas of Helena Valley (89%), has lived in the area more than a decade (74%), and works outside the home (58%) in Helena (71%) or is retired (36%).

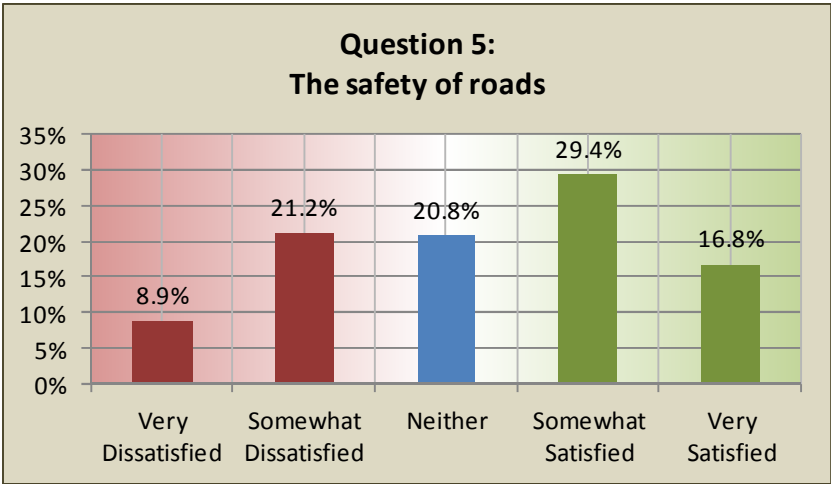
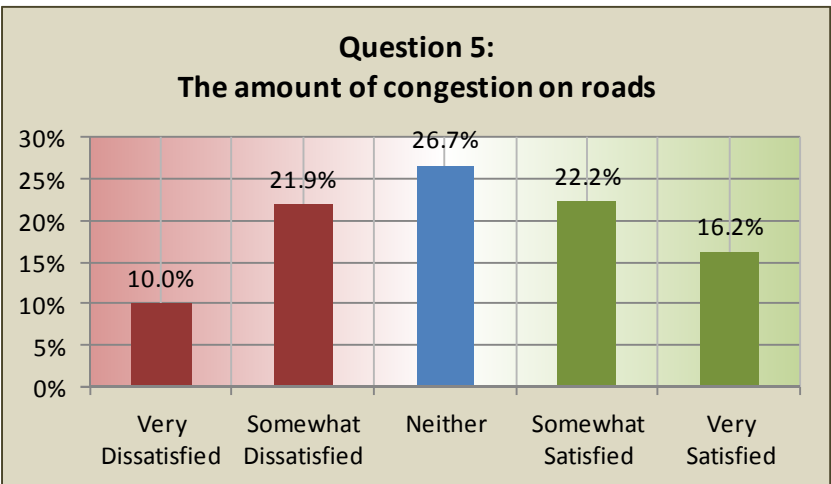
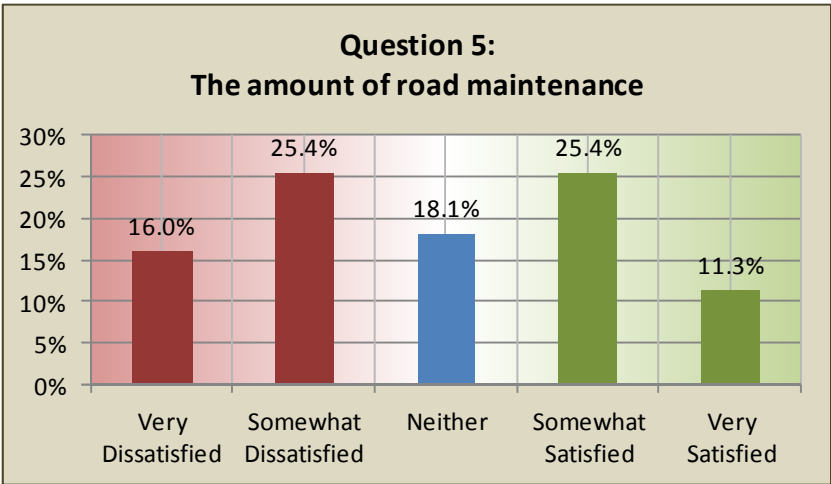
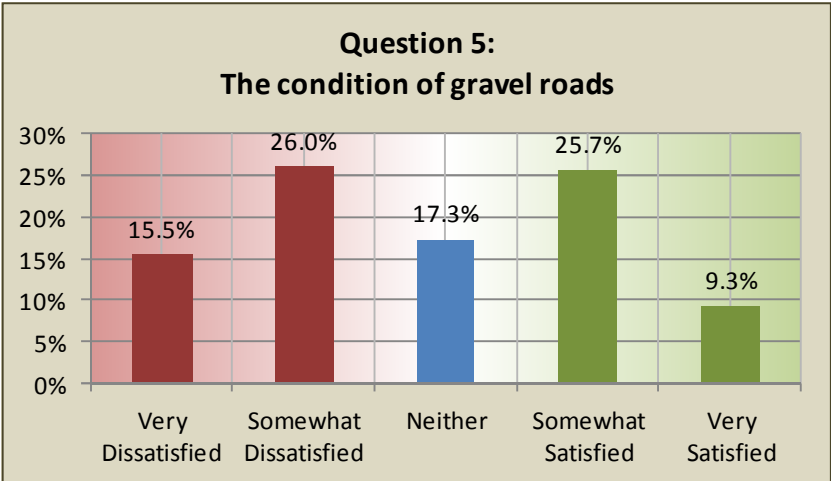
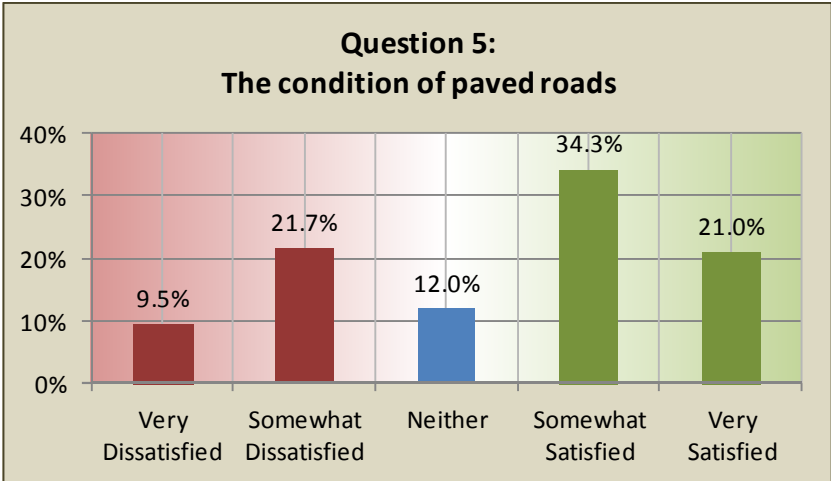
VIEWS ON ROAD ISSUES

THE NEXT QUESTIONS ARE ABOUT THE ROADS OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF HELENA AND EAST HELENA.

QUESTION 5: PLEASE INDICATE HOW SATISFIED YOU ARE WITH THE ROADS OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF HELENA AND EAST HELENA USING THE SCALE SHOWN. IF YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO RATE SOMETHING PLEASE MARK “DON’T KNOW”.

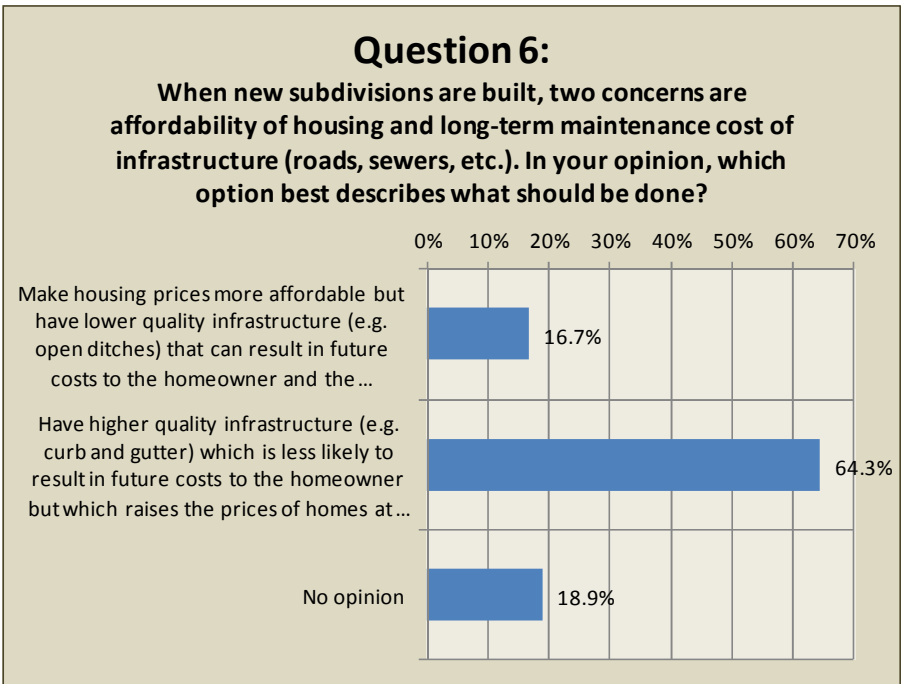
	Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
The condition of paved roads	9.5%	21.7%	12.0%	34.3%	21.0%	1.5%
the condition of gravel roads	15.5%	26.0%	17.3%	25.7%	9.3%	6.2%
The amount of road maintenance	16.0%	25.4%	18.1%	25.4%	11.3%	3.7%
The amount of traffic congestion on roads	10.0%	21.9%	26.7%	22.2%	16.2%	3.0%
The safety of roads	8.9%	21.2%	20.8%	29.4%	16.8%	2.8%

Note: The response “Don’t Know” was purposefully excluded from the five graphs representing the responses to Question 5. This was done in order to visually balance the graph as to demonstrate how people are proportionally satisfied or dissatisfied with the five topics. Please refer to the table above for the full responses.



Summary Q5 - More than half of the respondents (55%) are satisfied with the condition of paved roads (outside the cities) while respondents were pretty evenly split on satisfaction with the condition of gravel roads, the amount of road maintenance being done, how bad traffic congestion is, and whether road safety is a problem. Other than satisfaction with the condition of paved roads, a significant portion of respondents had no opinion to offer on each of the other road condition, maintenance, congestion, and safety questions.

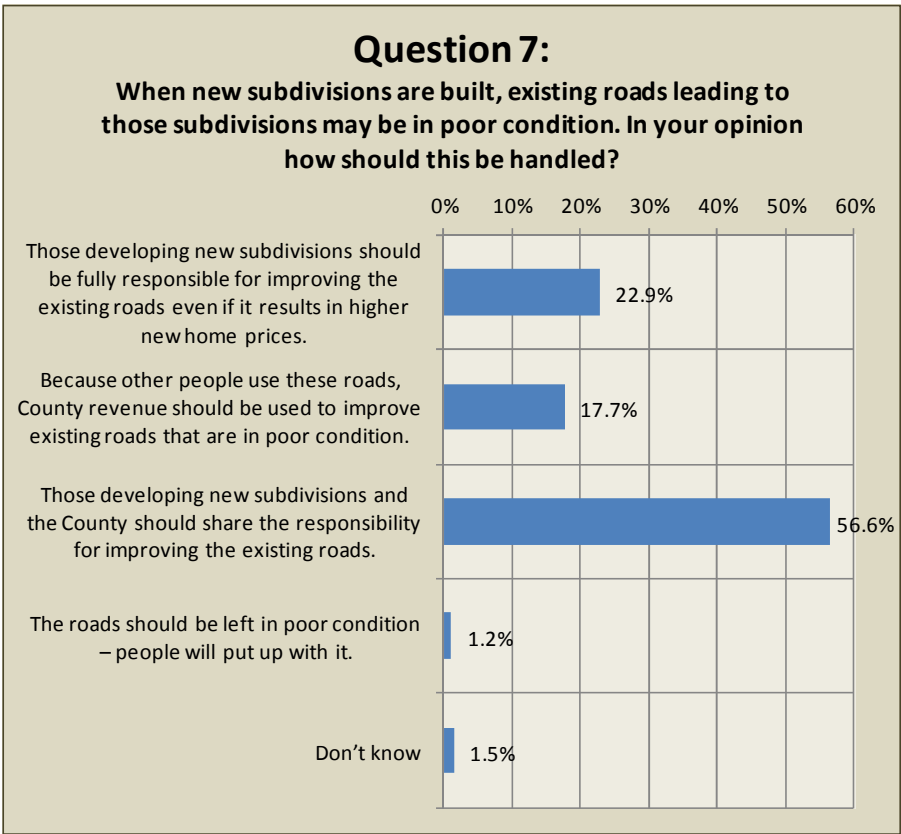
QUESTION 6: WHEN NEW SUBDIVISIONS ARE BUILT, TWO CONCERNS ARE AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING AND LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE COST OF INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS, SEWERS, ETC.). IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH OPTION BEST DESCRIBES WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?



Make housing prices more affordable but have lower quality infrastructure (e.g. open ditches) that can result in future costs to the homeowner and the community.	16.7%
Have higher quality infrastructure (e.g. curb and gutter) which is less likely to result in future costs to the homeowner but which raises the prices of homes at the beginning.	64.3%
No opinion	18.9%

Summary Q6 - Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents felt that long-term maintenance costs of infrastructure such as roads was more important than short-term affordability of housing.

QUESTION 7: WHEN NEW SUBDIVISIONS ARE BUILT, EXISTING ROADS LEADING TO THOSE SUBDIVISIONS MAY BE IN POOR CONDITION. IN YOUR OPINION HOW SHOULD THIS BE HANDLED?

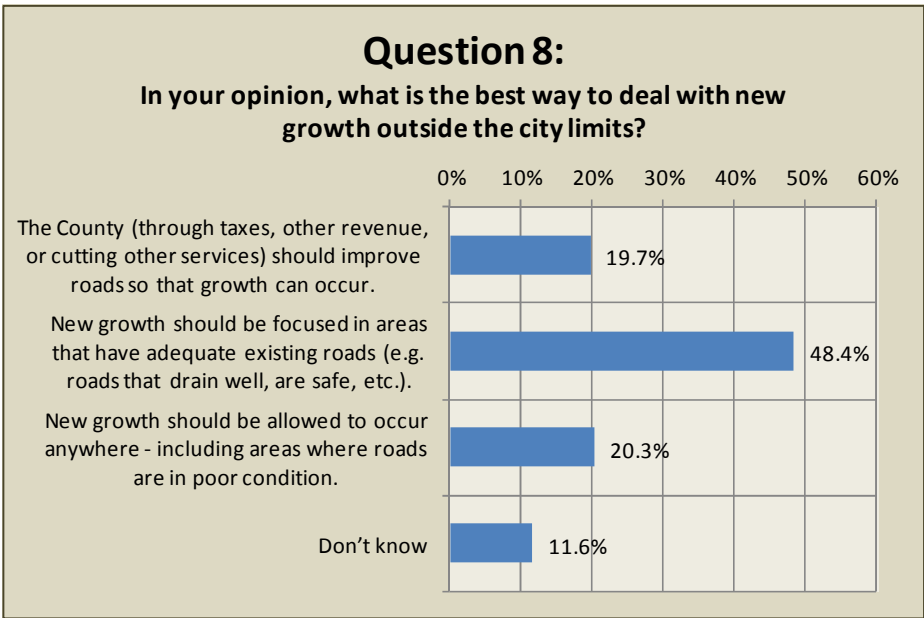


Those developing new subdivisions should be fully responsible for improving the existing roads even if it results in higher new home prices.	22.9%
Because other people use these roads, County revenue should be used to improve existing roads that are in poor condition.	17.7%
Those developing new subdivisions and the County should share the responsibility for improving the existing roads.	56.6%
The roads should be left in poor condition – people will put up with it.	1.2%
Don't know	1.5%

Summary Q7 - By far the most predominant view (57%) on how to deal with development on roads that are in poor condition was for the County and those developing subdivisions to share responsibility for improving those roads. Less than a quarter of respondents (23%) felt that those developing subdivisions should be solely responsible

to pay for fixing those roads, and less than a fifth (18%) thought the general taxpayers should be responsible. Less than 2 percent thought it was okay to just leave the roads in poor condition as areas develop.

QUESTION 8: IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH NEW GROWTH OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS?



The County (through taxes, other revenue, or cutting other services) should improve roads so that growth can occur.	19.7%
New growth should be focused in areas that have adequate existing roads (e.g. roads that drain well, are safe, etc.).	48.4%
New growth should be allowed to occur anywhere - including areas where roads are in poor condition.	20.3%
Don't know	11.6%

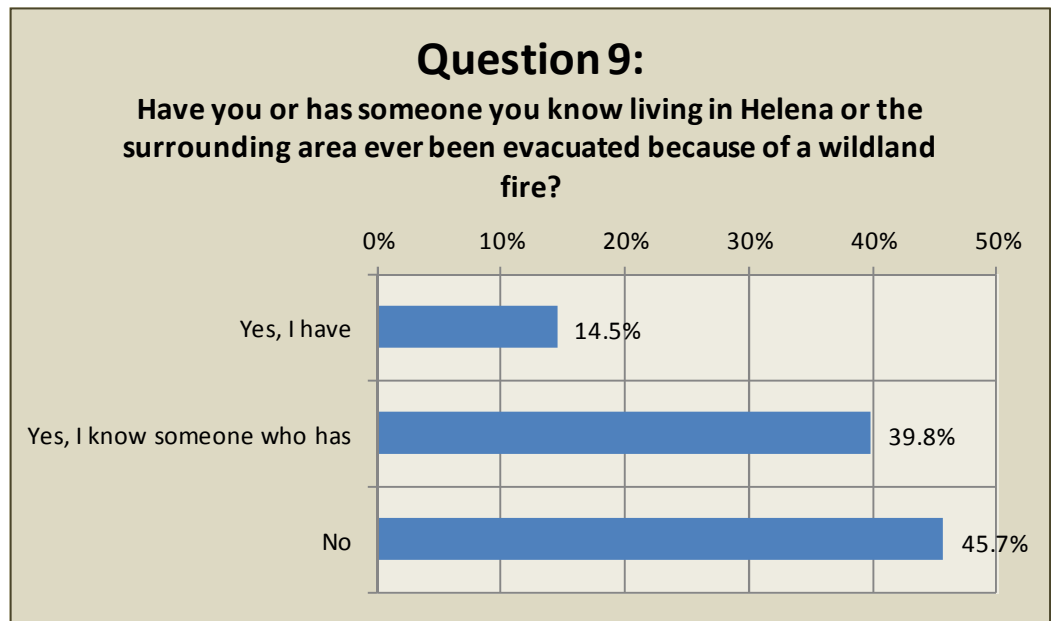
Summary Q8 - The largest number of survey respondents (but a little less than half) thought that focusing future growth in areas with good roads was the best option for

growth management. Other respondents were closely split on whether to allow growth anywhere regardless of road conditions or to have the County pay to upgrade roads to accommodate growth, each alternative view garnering about 20% of the votes.

Views on Fire Protection Issues

This section asks questions about wildland fire.

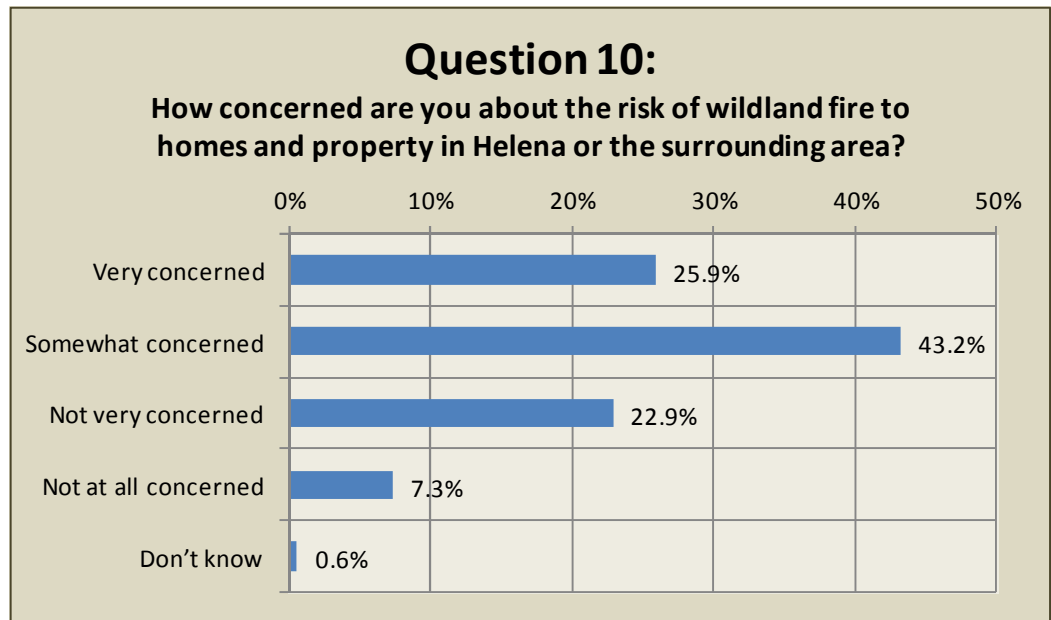
Question 9: Have you or has someone you know living in Helena or the surrounding area ever been evacuated because of a wildland fire?



Yes, I have	14.5%
Yes, I know someone who has	39.8%
No	45.7%

Summary Q9 - More than half of nearly 3000 respondents knew someone who had been evacuated (39.8%) in a wildland fire event or had actually been evacuated themselves (15%).

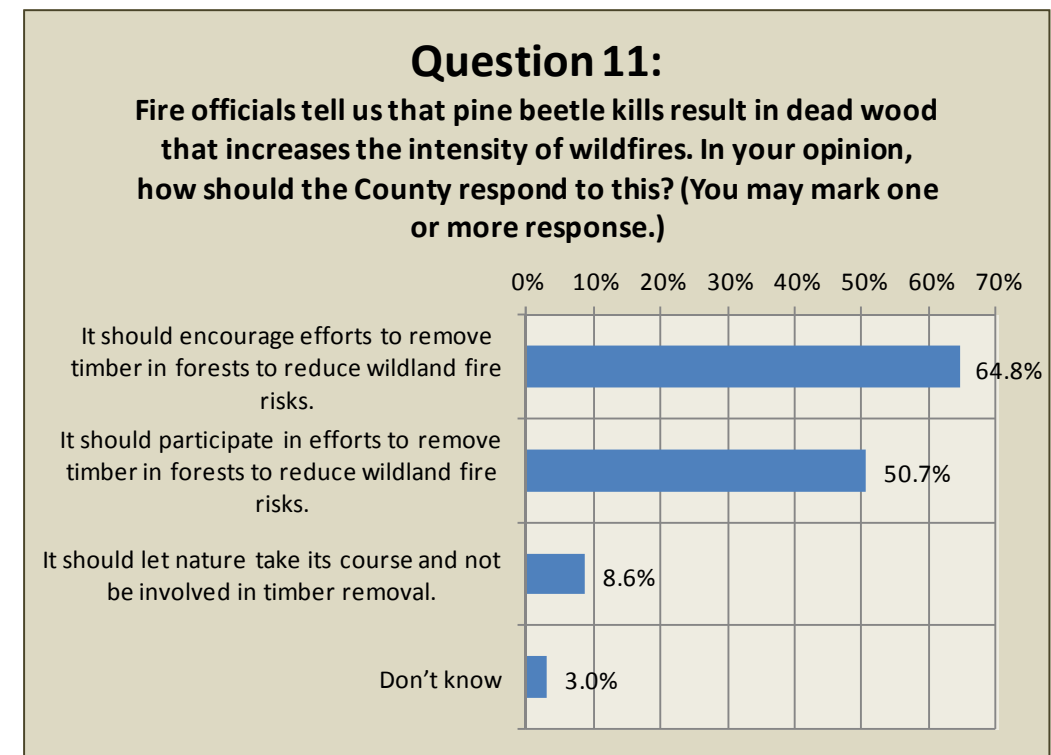
Question 10: How concerned are you about the risk of wildland fire to homes and property in Helena or the surrounding area?



Very concerned	25.9%
Somewhat concerned	43.2%
Not very concerned	22.9%
Not at all concerned	7.3%
Don't know	0.6%

Summary Q10 - More than two-thirds of the survey respondents were concerned or very concerned about the risks of wildland fire to lives and property in Helena Valley.

Question 11: Fire officials tell us that pine beetle kills result in dead wood that increases the intensity of wildfires. In your opinion, how should the County respond to this? (You may mark one or more response.)

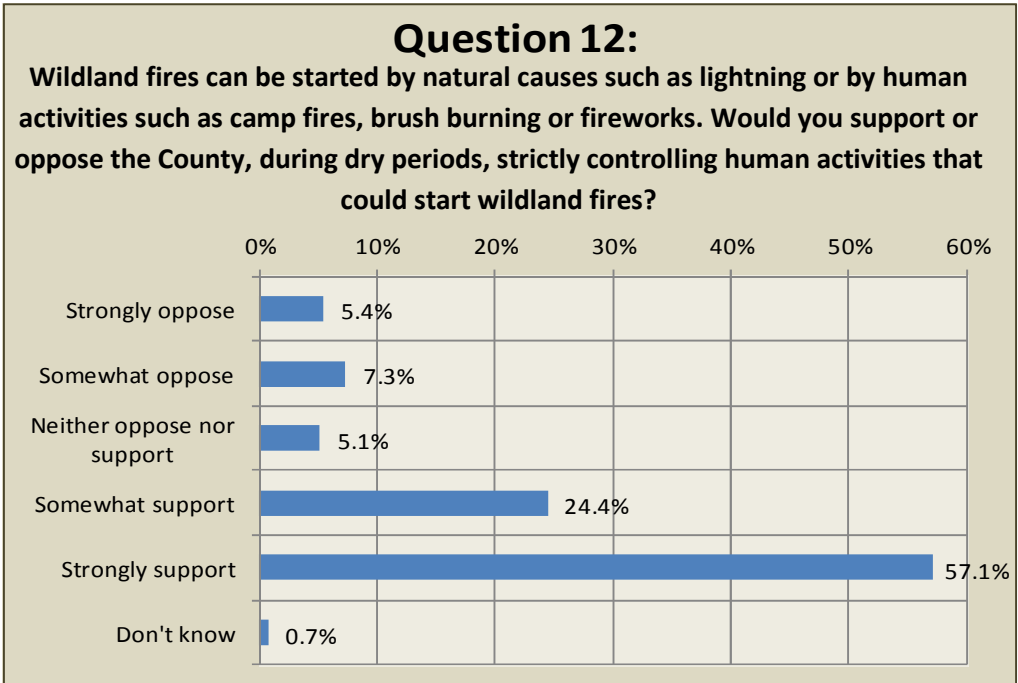


It should encourage efforts to remove timber in forests to reduce wildland fire risks.	64.8%
It should participate in efforts to remove timber in forests to reduce wildland fire risks.	50.7%
It should let nature take its course and not be involved in timber removal.	8.6%
Don't know	3.0%

Note: Because respondents could select more than one response, the total percentage is greater than 100%.

Summary Q11 - Just under two-thirds (64.8%) of those who filled out and returned the survey would support efforts to remove timber in forests to reduce fire hazards while half (50.4%) would go so far as having the County directly involved in such efforts. Less than 10 percent (8.6%) thought that allowing nature to take its course on wildland fires was an appropriate policy response.

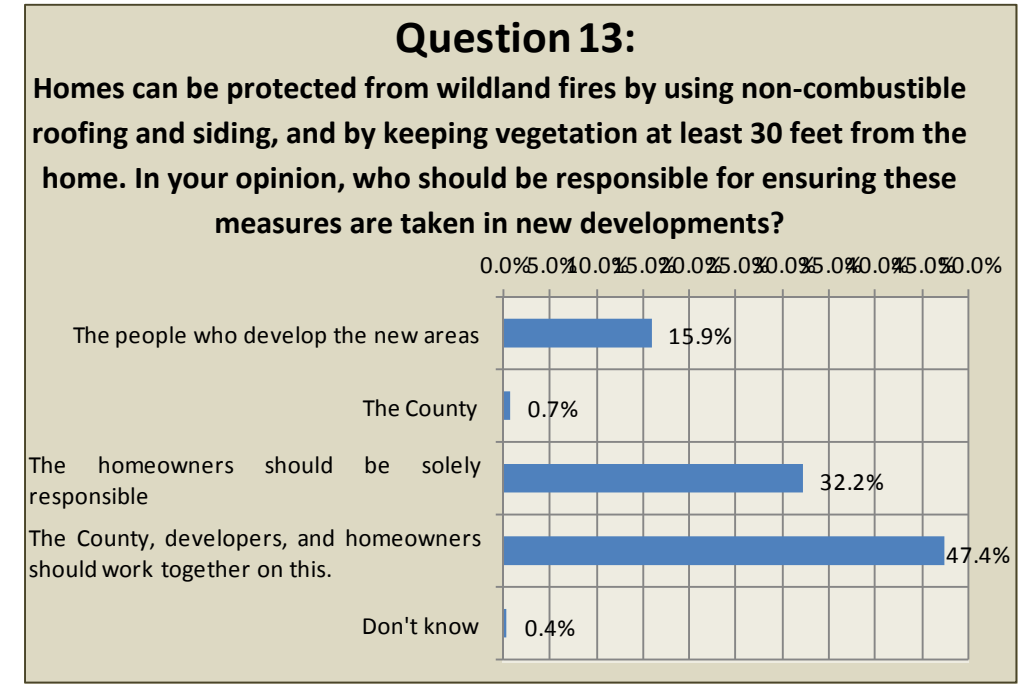
QUESTION 12: WILDLAND FIRES CAN BE STARTED BY NATURAL CAUSES SUCH AS LIGHTNING OR BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CAMP FIRES, BRUSH BURNING OR FIREWORKS. WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE COUNTY, DURING DRY PERIODS, STRICTLY CONTROLLING HUMAN ACTIVITIES THAT COULD START WILDLAND FIRES?



Strongly oppose	5.4%
Somewhat oppose	7.3%
Neither oppose nor support	5.1%
Somewhat support	24.4%
Strongly support	57.1%
Don't know	0.7%

Summary Q12 - More than 80 percent (81.5%) of respondents thought the County should strictly limit human activities such as fireworks that have the potential of starting wildland fires. Less than 15 percent of respondents were opposed to such limitations (12.7%).

QUESTION 13: HOMES CAN BE PROTECTED FROM WILDLAND FIRES BY USING NON-COMBUSTIBLE ROOFING AND SIDING, AND BY KEEPING VEGETATION AT LEAST 30 FEET FROM THE HOME. IN YOUR OPINION, WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THESE MEASURES ARE TAKEN IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS?

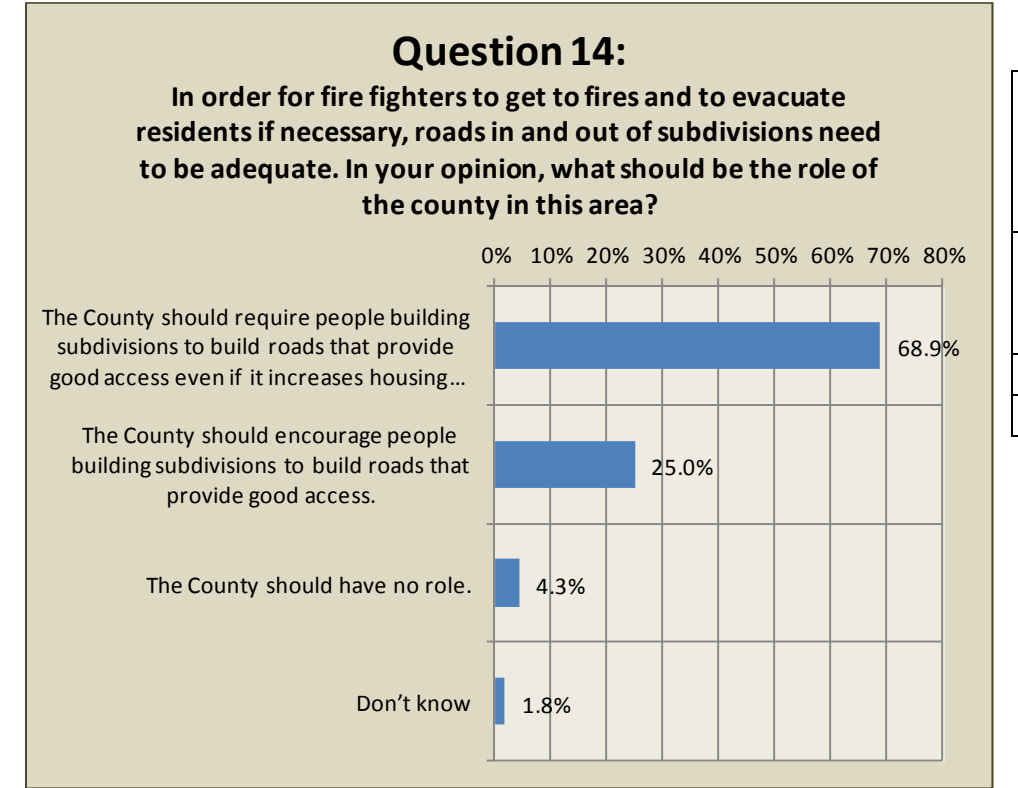


The people who develop the new areas	15.9%
The County	0.7%
The homeowners should be solely responsible	32.2%
The County, developers, and homeowners should work together on this.	47.4%
Don't know	0.4%

Summary Q13 - Just under one-half (47.4%) of survey responses indicate that cooperative efforts of the County, homeowners, and those developing land should cooperatively address keeping vegetation cleared around homes and evacuation routes and using non-combustible roofing and siding as fire protection measures. A third of

respondents (32.2%) thought this matter should be left entirely to homeowners, while just over 15 percent (15.9%) thought that burden should be placed primarily on those developing new housing areas.

QUESTION 14: IN ORDER FOR FIRE FIGHTERS TO GET TO FIRES AND TO EVACUATE RESIDENTS IF NECESSARY, ROADS IN AND OUT OF SUBDIVISIONS NEED TO BE ADEQUATE. IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT SHOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE COUNTY IN THIS AREA?

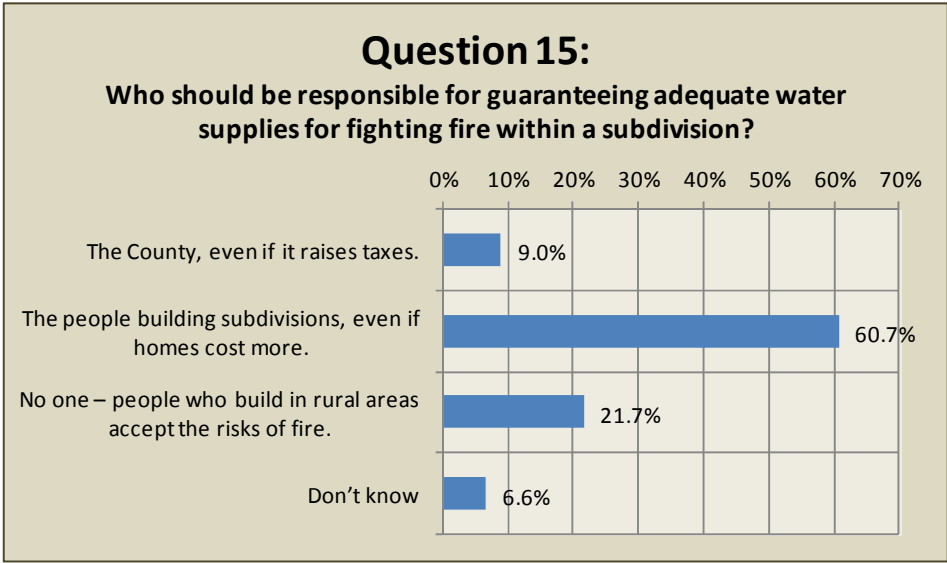


The County should require people building subdivisions to build roads that provide good access even if it increases housing costs.	68.9%
The County should encourage people building subdivisions to build roads that provide good access.	25.0%
The County should have no role.	4.3%
Don't know	1.8%

Q14 One of the strongest indicators of public support for intervention was in the area of providing safe access and evacuation routes for new subdivisions. More than two-thirds (68.9%) indicated that those developing new subdivisions should provide adequate roads for these purposes, even if it increases the cost of housing. A quarter (25.0%) of

the respondents felt that just encouraging proper road construction was adequate, while less than five percent (4.3%) thought the County has no interest in this issue of road access.

QUESTION 15: WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARANTEEING ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLIES FOR FIGHTING FIRE WITHIN A SUBDIVISION?

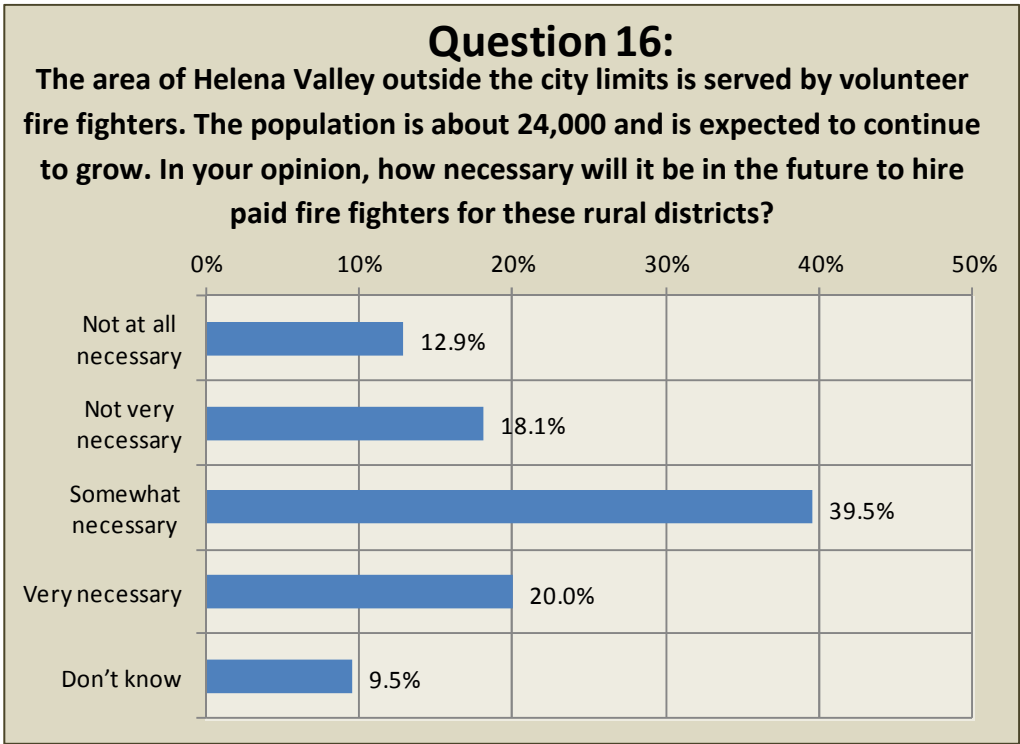


The County, even if it raises taxes.	9.0%
The people building subdivisions, even if homes cost more.	60.7%
No one – people who build in rural areas accept the risks of fire.	21.7%
Don't know	6.6%

Note: Results shown here do not include multiple responses totaling 1.9%

Summary Q15 -Survey respondents also heavily favor (60.7%) requirements for fire protection water sources being placed on those developing land, even if it increases housing costs. But a significant portion (21.7%) of the survey respondents believe that letting people take the risk of owning homes in fire-prone areas without water sources for fire-fighting was reasonable.

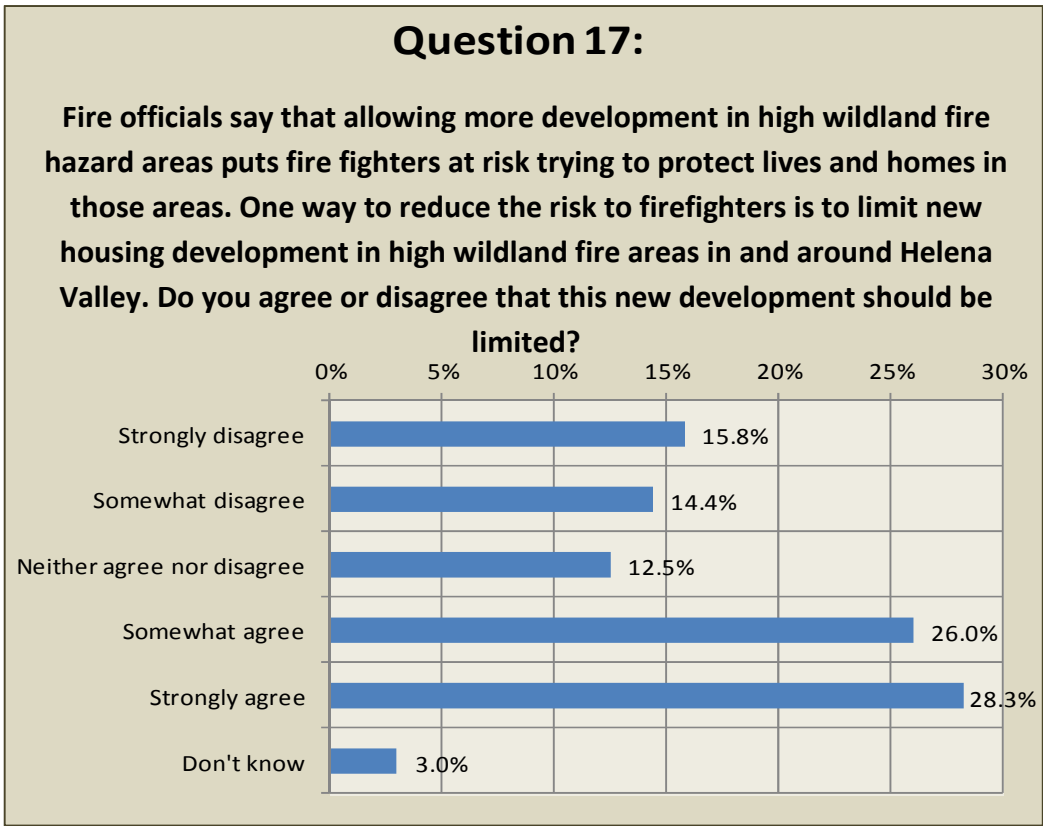
QUESTION 16: THE AREA OF HELENA VALLEY OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS IS SERVED BY VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS. THE POPULATION IS ABOUT 24,000 AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO GROW. IN YOUR OPINION, HOW NECESSARY WILL IT BE IN THE FUTURE TO HIRE PAID FIRE FIGHTERS FOR THESE RURAL DISTRICTS?



Not at all necessary	12.9%
Not very necessary	18.1%
Somewhat necessary	39.5%
Very necessary	20.0%
Don't know	9.5%

Summary Q16 - A strong majority of respondents (59.5%) thinks that continued growth will eventually require paid fire fighting services as opposed to the current system of volunteer fire districts. Just under a third (31%) of respondents thinks the volunteer system can be sustained into the future.

QUESTION 17: FIRE OFFICIALS SAY THAT ALLOWING MORE DEVELOPMENT IN HIGH WILDLAND FIRE HAZARD AREAS PUTS FIRE FIGHTERS AT RISK TRYING TO PROTECT LIVES AND HOMES IN THOSE AREAS. ONE WAY TO REDUCE THE RISK TO FIREFIGHTERS IS TO LIMIT NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN HIGH WILDLAND FIRE AREAS IN AND AROUND HELENA VALLEY. DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE LIMITED?



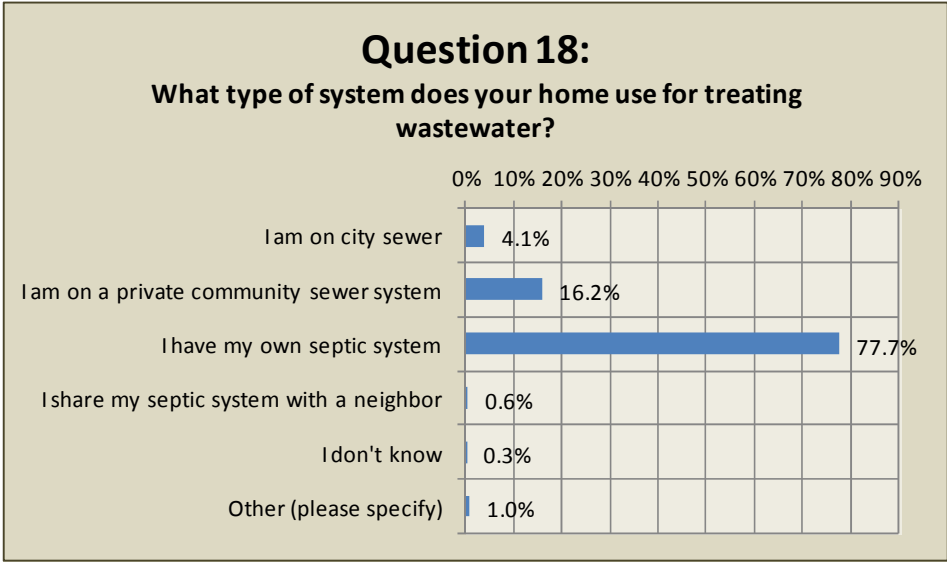
Strongly disagree	15.8%
Somewhat disagree	14.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	12.5%
Somewhat agree	26.0%
Strongly agree	28.3%
Don't know	3.0%

Summary Q17 - A similar percentage (54.3%) of those who completed the surveys felt that the County should take steps to limit growth in fire-prone areas, while just under a third (30.2%) thought that such development limitations are not appropriate.

Views on Wastewater Issues

THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT WASTEWATER.

QUESTION 18: WHAT TYPE OF SYSTEM DOES YOUR HOME USE FOR TREATING WASTEWATER?



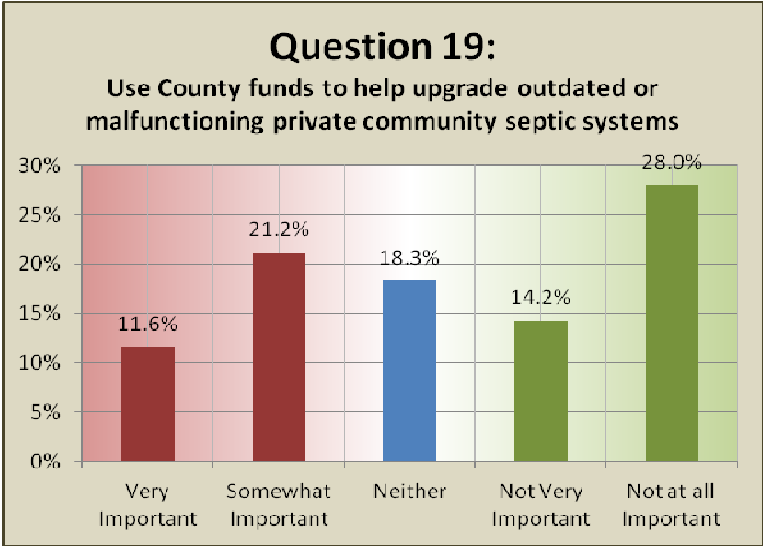
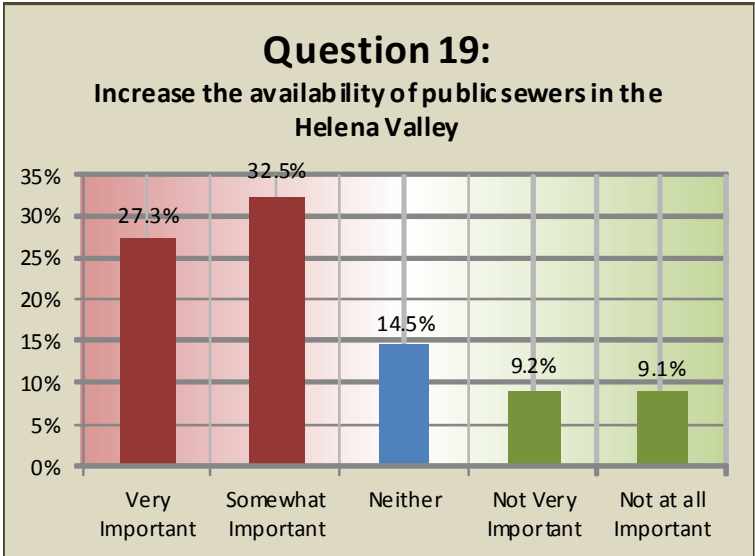
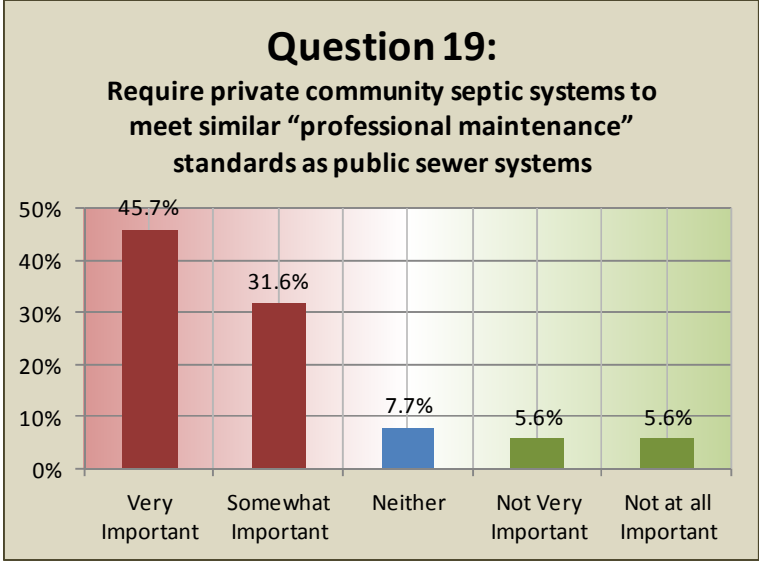
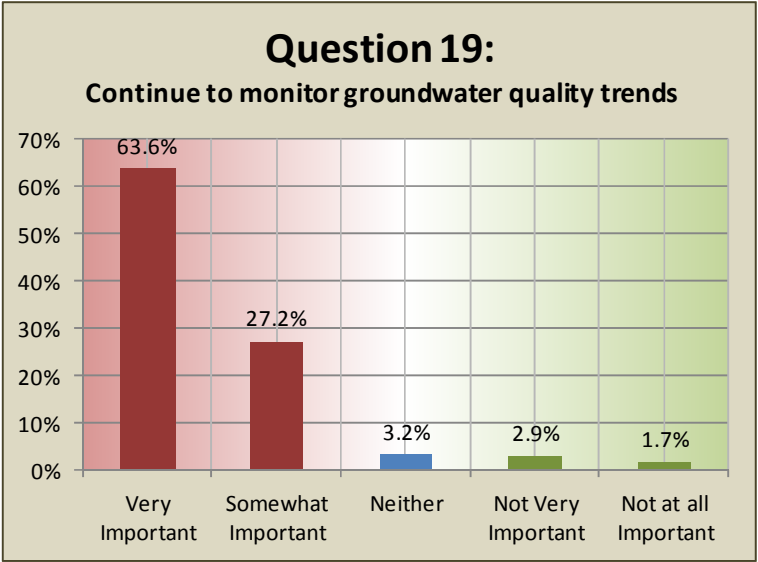
I am on city sewer	4.1%
I am on a private community sewer system	16.2%
I have my own septic system	77.7%
I share my septic system with a neighbor	0.6%
I don't know	0.3%
Other (please specify)	1.0%

Summary Q18 - The vast majority (77.7%) of those who responded to the survey are served by individual septic systems.

QUESTION 19: OVER THE PAST DECADE, SOME HAVE VOICED CONCERNS OVER THE EFFECTS OF OLD OR FAILING SEPTIC SYSTEMS ON GROUNDWATER QUALITY FOR DRINKING PURPOSES WHICH LED THE COUNTY TO MONITOR GROUNDWATER QUALITY AND TO REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS BE INSPECTED AND MAINTAINED. MORE RECENTLY, PERCEIVED HEALTH RISKS AND FINANCIAL BURDENS ASSOCIATED WITH LARGE COMMUNITY WASTEWATER LAGOONS AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS HAVE LED SOME TO SUGGEST THE NEED FOR INCREASED INSPECTION AND PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE OF THOSE LARGER SYSTEMS TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER QUALITY AND HOMEOWNER INVESTMENTS. HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS FOR THE COUNTY TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neither	Not Very Important	Not at all Important	Don't Know
Continue to monitor groundwater quality trends	63.6%	27.2%	3.2%	2.9%	1.7%	1.4%
Require private community septic systems to meet similar “professional maintenance” standards as public sewer systems	45.7%	31.6%	7.7%	5.6%	5.6%	3.8%
Increase the availability of public sewers in Helena Valley	27.3%	32.5%	14.5%	9.2%	9.1%	7.4%
Use County funds to help upgrade outdated or malfunctioning private community septic systems	11.6%	21.2%	18.3%	14.2%	28.0%	6.7%

Note: The response “Don’t Know” was purposefully excluded from the five graphs representing the responses to Question 19. This was done in order to visually balance the graph as to demonstrate how people are proportionally satisfied or dissatisfied with the four topics. Please refer to the table above for the full responses.

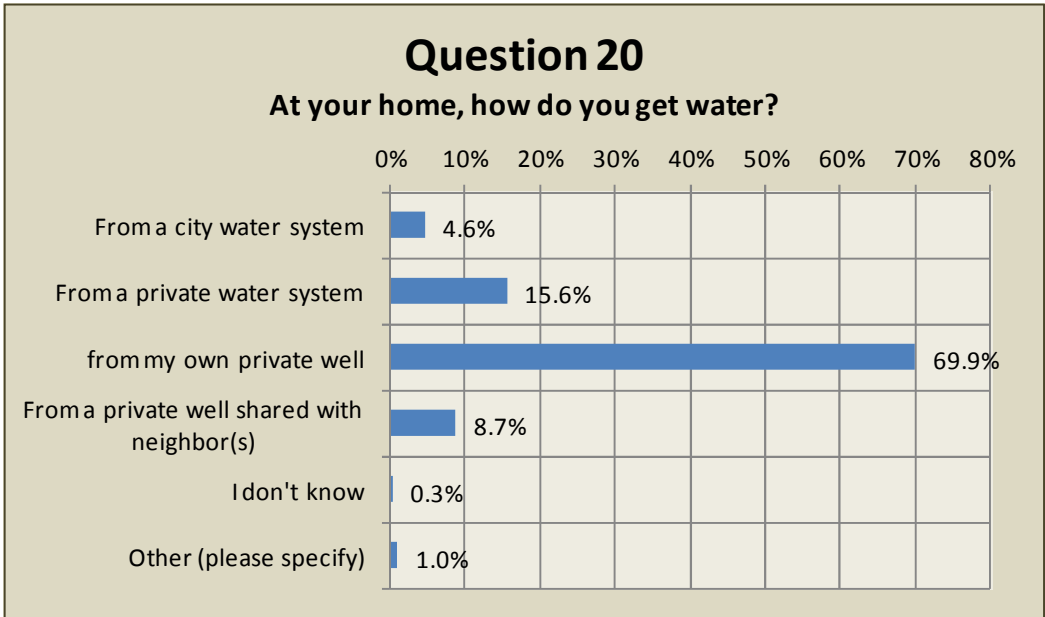


Summary Q19 - One of the strongest support indications (90.8%) of the survey was in the area of continued groundwater quality monitoring. More than three-quarters (77.3%) of respondents also felt that community septic systems should be required to have professional maintenance like public sewer systems. A fairly strong majority (59.8%) also supported expanding availability of public sewers in Helena Valley. As would be expected, only a minority of respondents would support using tax dollars to fix malfunctioning community wastewater systems, but the fact that nearly a third (32.8%) would support public funding is significant.

VIEWS ON WATER ISSUES

THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT WATER QUALITY.

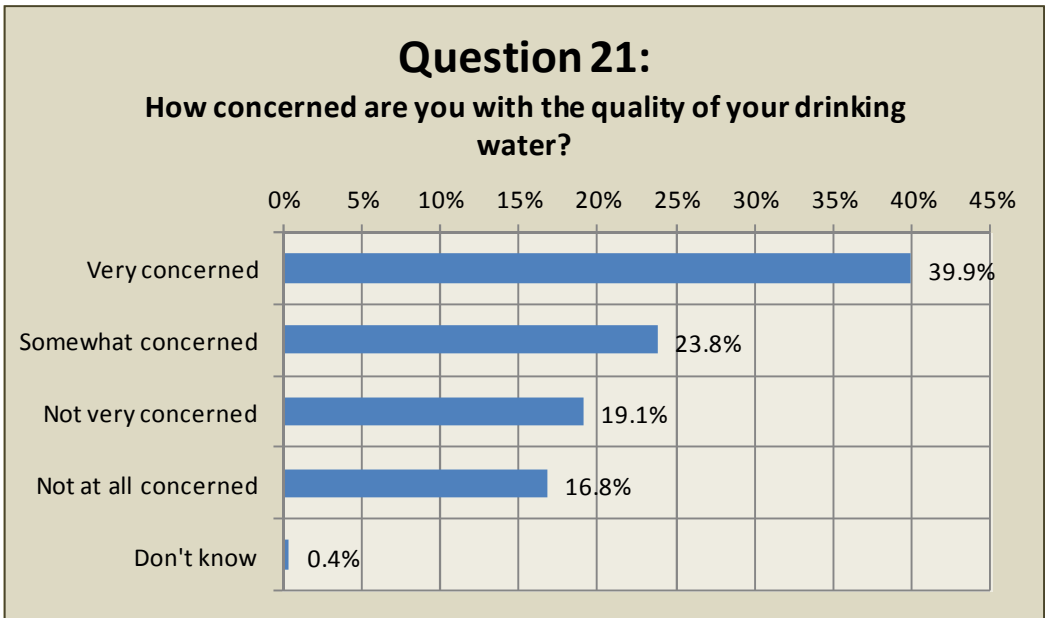
QUESTION 20: AT YOUR HOME, HOW DO YOU GET WATER?



From a city water system	4.6%
From a private water system	15.6%
from my own private well	69.9%
From a private well shared with neighbor(s)	8.7%
I don't know	0.3%
Other (please specify)	1.0%

Q20 The vast majority (69.9%) of those responding to the survey get their drinking water from individual wells. The next highest (15.6%) percentage has private community wells as their water source.

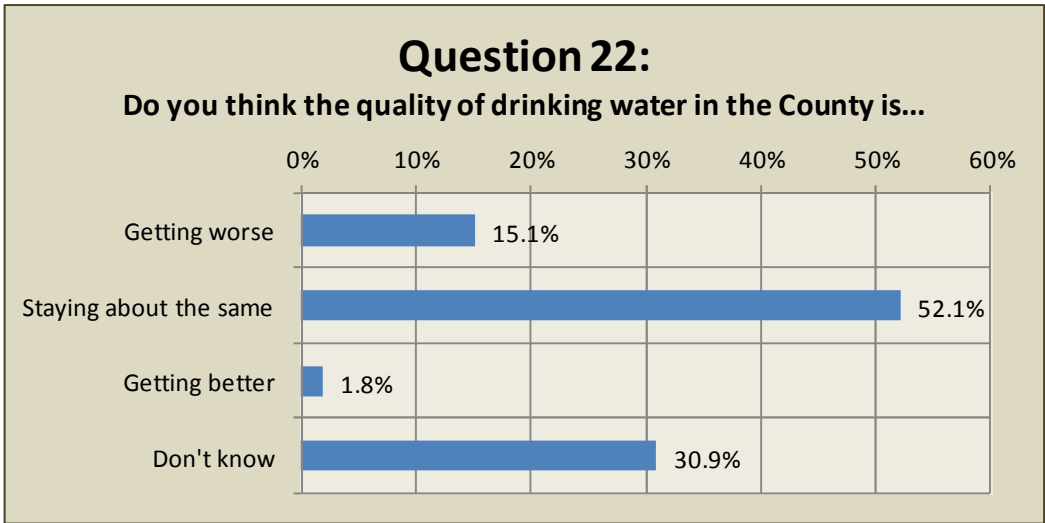
QUESTION 21: HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU WITH THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER?



Very concerned	39.9%
Somewhat concerned	23.8%
Not very concerned	19.1%
Not at all concerned	16.8%
Don't know	0.4%

Summary Q21 - Just under two-thirds (63.7%) of the respondents are concerned about drinking water quality, while just over a third (35.9%) have little or no concern.

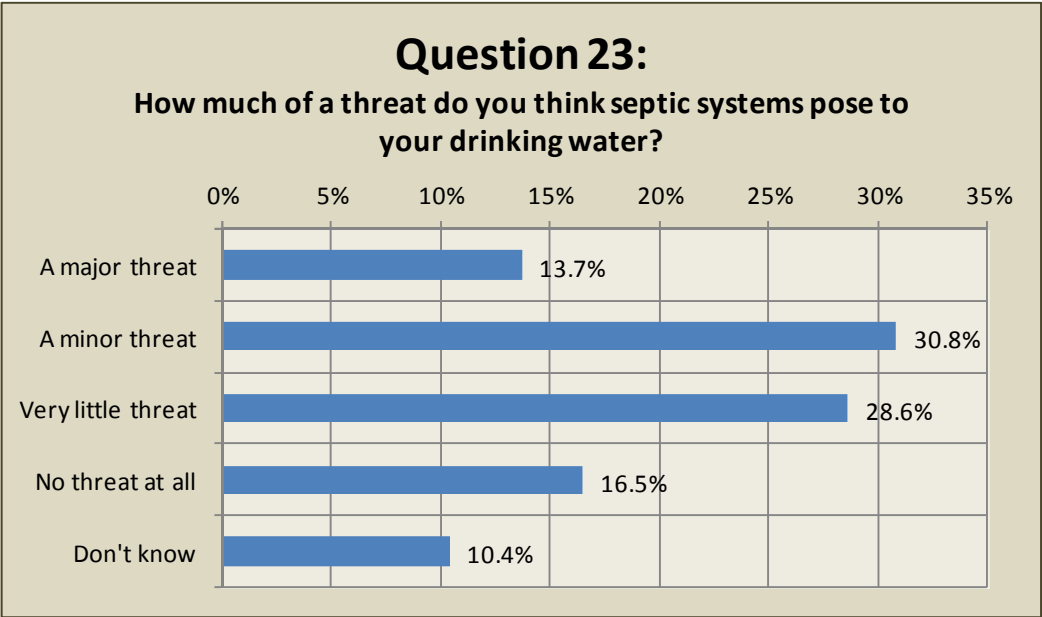
QUESTION 22: DO YOU THINK THE QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER IN THE COUNTY IS...



Getting worse	15.1%
Staying about the same	52.1%
Getting better	1.8%
Don't know	30.9%

Summary Q22 - A little over half (52.1%) of survey respondents think drinking water quality is staying the same. Just under a third (30.9%) has no idea which direction water quality is heading, while around 15 percent think it is declining. Very few respondents thought the quality of drinking water is improving (1.8%).

QUESTION 23: HOW MUCH OF A THREAT DO YOU THINK SEPTIC SYSTEMS POSE TO YOUR DRINKING WATER?

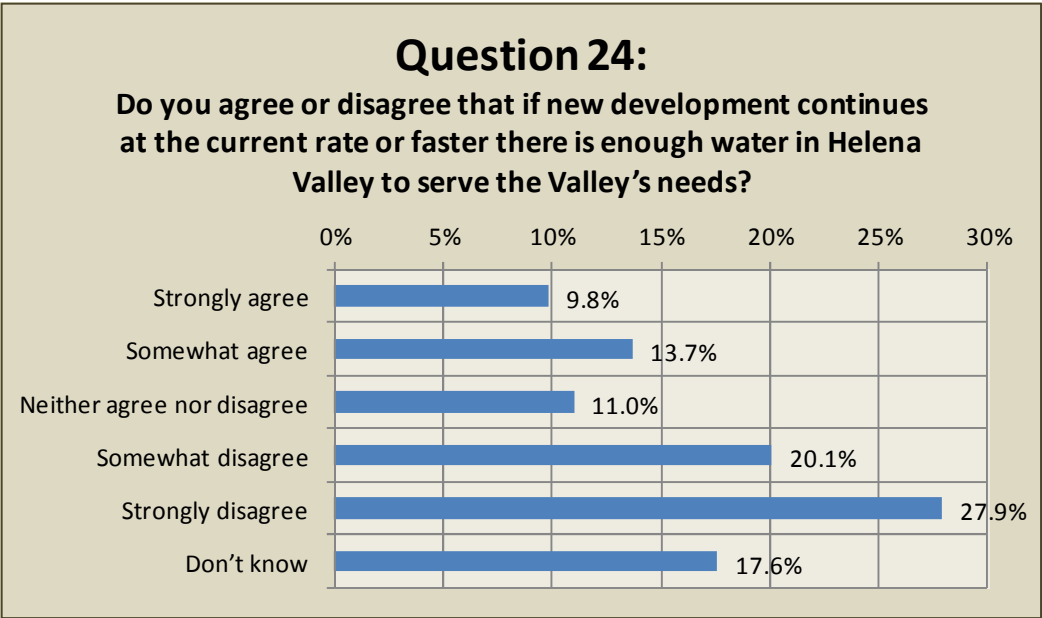


A major threat	13.7%
A minor threat	30.8%
Very little threat	28.6%
No threat at all	16.5%
Don't know	10.4%

Summary Q23 - People were pretty evenly split on their views of whether septic systems pose a threat to drinking water quality, with 44.5% thinking they are a threat and 45% thinking the opposite.

THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF THE WATER SUPPLY

QUESTION 24: DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT IF NEW DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES AT THE CURRENT RATE OR FASTER THERE IS ENOUGH WATER IN HELENA VALLEY TO SERVE THE VALLEY’S NEEDS?

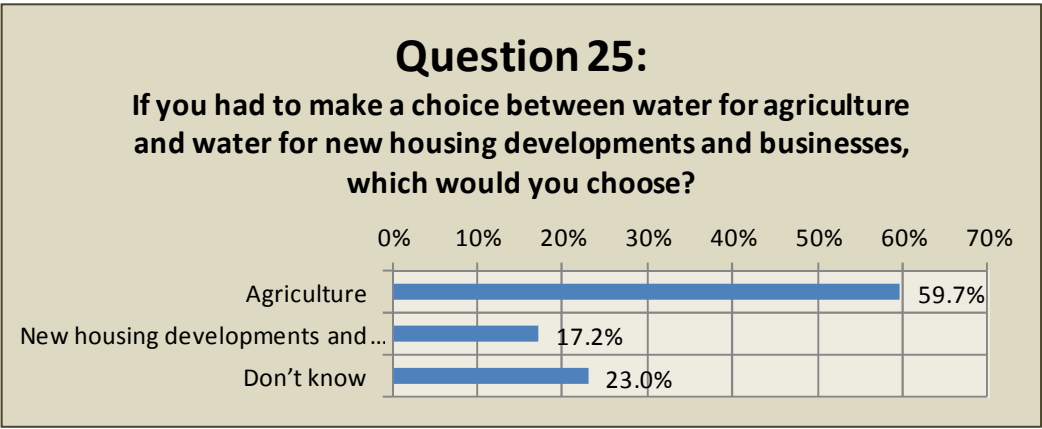


Strongly agree	9.8%
Somewhat agree	13.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	11.0%
Somewhat disagree	20.1%
Strongly disagree	27.9%
Don't know	17.6%

Summary Q24 - Significantly more respondents (48%) expressed an opinion that water shortages could be a problem in the future than those that thought there will be enough water to serve future growth (23.5%). A significant percentage either took no position (11%) or indicated their lack of knowledge (17.6%) on

this question.

QUESTION 25: IF YOU HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE BETWEEN WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER FOR NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS AND BUSINESSES, WHICH WOULD YOU CHOOSE?



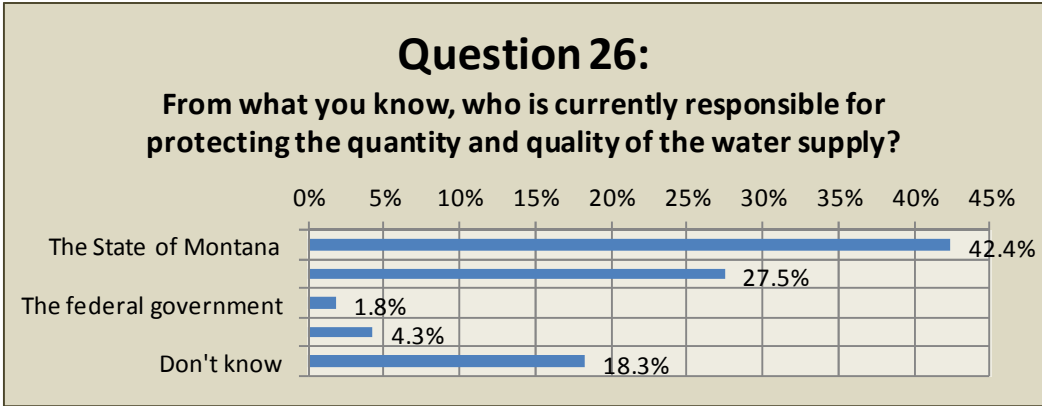
Agriculture	59.7%
New housing developments and businesses	17.2%
Don't know	23.0%

Summary Q25 - A major goal of the current Growth Policy is the continuation of ranching and farming. In addition to conflicts between these uses and residential development, there is also competition for water. The survey results indicate continued strong support (59.7%) for

agricultural uses over residential when it comes to water availability.

THIS SECTION ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF WATER

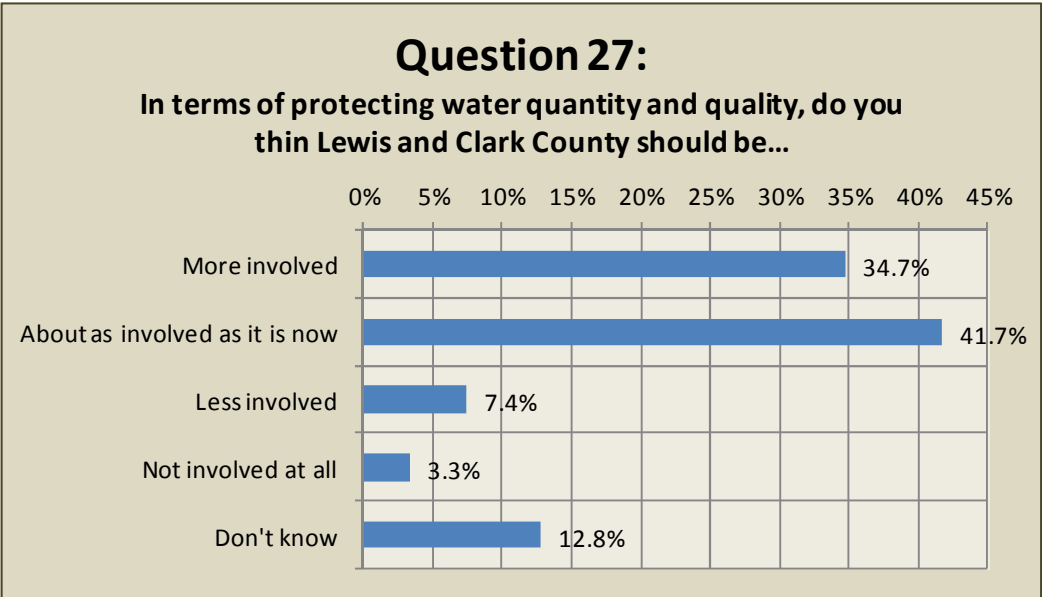
QUESTION 26: FROM WHAT YOU KNOW, WHO IS CURRENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF THE WATER SUPPLY?



The State of Montana	42.4%
The County	27.5%
The federal government	1.8%
No one	4.3%
Don't know	18.3%

Summary Q26 - The largest group of respondents (42.4%) accurately identified the State of Montana as the agency having authority over water quality and quantity, but a significant component of survey respondents (27.5%) thought the County has authority over such matters.

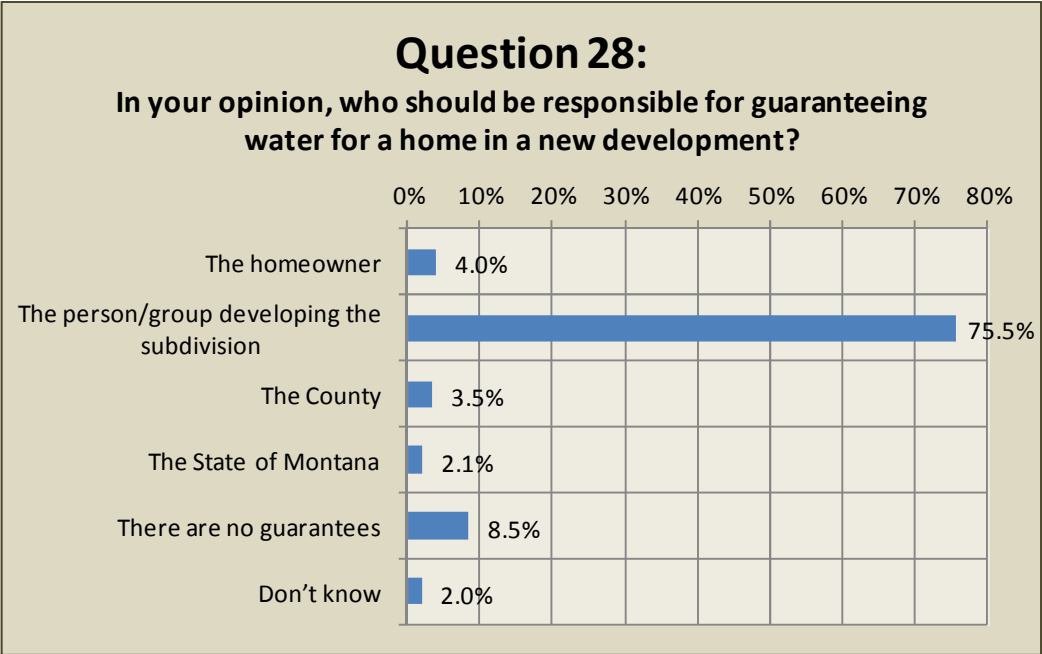
QUESTION 27: IN TERMS OF PROTECTING WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY, DO YOU THINK LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY SHOULD BE...



More involved	34.7%
About as involved as it is now	41.7%
Less involved	7.4%
Not involved at all	3.3%
Don't know	12.8%

Summary Q27 - More than a third of survey respondents (34.7%) think the County should do more to protect water quality and quantity, while the largest response rate (41.7%) was for the County to keep on doing what is has been doing. A little over 10 percent thought the County is too involved in water issues or shouldn’t be involved at all.

QUESTION 28: IN YOUR OPINION, WHO SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARANTEEING WATER FOR A HOME IN A NEW DEVELOPMENT?



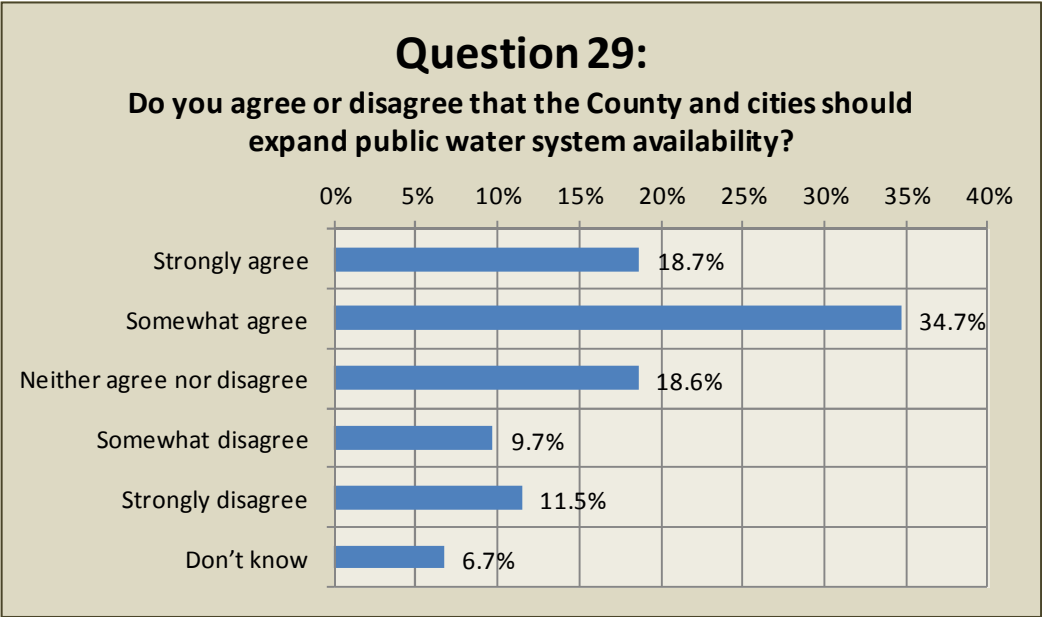
The homeowner	4.0%
The person/group developing the subdivision	75.5%
The County	3.5%
The State of Montana	2.1%
There are no guarantees	8.5%
Don’t know	2.0%

Note: Results shown here do not include multiple responses totaling 4.3%

Summary Q28 - Another strongly supported (75.5%) concept in the survey is that those developing housing projects should be primarily responsible for guaranteeing water for the homes in them. No other option, including the homeowner, State, or County drew more than 5 percent support. Less than 10 percent (8.5%) of respondents felt that there is no guarantee of

water availability.

QUESTION 29: DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE THAT THE COUNTY AND CITIES SHOULD EXPAND PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM AVAILABILITY?



Strongly agree	18.7%
Somewhat agree	34.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	18.6%
Somewhat disagree	9.7%
Strongly disagree	11.5%
Don’t know	6.7%

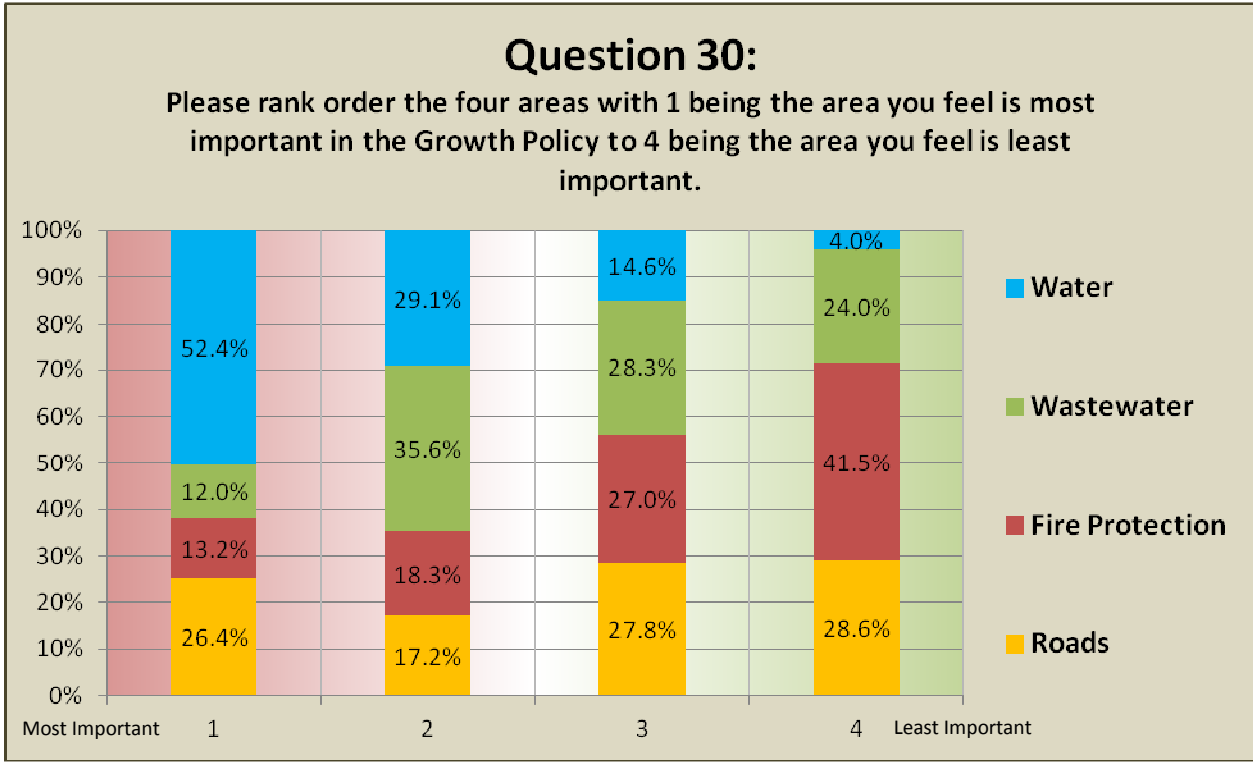
Summary Q29 - A slight majority (53.4%) favor extending public water in the Valley while less than a quarter (21.2%) oppose public water extensions. A high percentage (18.6%) had no opinion in either direction.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE KEY ISSUES

AND FINALLY...

QUESTION 30: PLEASE RANK ORDER THE FOUR AREAS WITH 1 BEING THE AREA YOU FEEL IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THE GROWTH POLICY TO 4 BEING THE AREA YOU FEEL IS LEAST IMPORTANT.

Level of importance – 1 is the highest, 4 is the lowest	1	2	3	4
Roads	26.4%	17.2%	27.8%	28.6%
Fire Protection	13.2%	18.3%	27.0%	41.5%
Wastewater	12.0%	35.6%	28.3%	24.0%
Water	52.4%	29.1%	14.6%	4.0%



Summary Q30 - Respondents were asked to rank order the four issues of roads, fire protection, wastewater, and water availability. The clear winner was water with more than half of all respondents (52.4%) indicating that as the most important issue of the Growth Policy update. The composite rankings would seem to indicate that wastewater is the second most pressing issue, while roads come in third and fire protection is the fourth priority among survey respondents.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

QUESTIONNAIRE

Basic questions for each of the four major issues were developed by Land Solutions, LLC in consultation with the Community Development and Planning Department. The questionnaire was then fine-tuned by The Research Group, Inc. during several phone meetings with Land Solutions and the department. An attempt was made to provide context for the questions and to word questions and responses in a balanced fashion including consultation with local industry groups. A number of “demographic” questions were included to allow more in-depth analysis of the results (residence, length of residence, employment status, employment location, direct and indirect experience with wildland fires, type of wastewater system, and type of water system.) The materials were then formatted to allow scanning by an OMR/image scanner.

SAMPLE

A tax list of properties in the unincorporated area of Lewis and Clark County (N=11,631) was used as the initial sample list. The list was put through USPS CASS verification and the National Change of Address verification. The list was modified in the following ways

- Duplicates were removed – if more than one record existed for the same property (e.g. multiple owners), all but one record was removed.
- Government owned properties were removed.
- Individuals who had moved were excluded from the sample if the zip code of their initial mailing address was within the sample area but the zip code of their new address was not. If the zip code of their initial mailing address was outside of the sample (they owned property in the sample area, but did not live in the sample area) and the zip code of the new mailing address was also outside of the sample area, they were kept in since they may have moved but continue to own land in the sample area.
- A very small number (approximately 20) records were excluded from the list because names were recorded such that it was not possible to determine first name/ last name combinations and as a result, the record would fail the NCOA check.

The number of usable records in the sample was 10,335.

SURVEY DISTRIBUTION

A mail packet was prepared for each sample member. The packet consisted of a cover letter, brochure prepared by the Department discussing each of the four issues, the survey, and a postage paid return envelope. Sample was pre-sorted to obtain best first class automated USPS postage rates and was mailed from a regional USPS facility. Respondents were asked to return their completed surveys within three weeks. The field was actually kept open an additional week because of the large number of returns arriving several days after the three week deadline.

SCANNING AND CLEANING

Surveys were scanned using software capable of reading both optical marks (e.g. filled in bubbles on survey) and images (e.g. responses to open ended questions). The software flags blanks, multiple responses, and read problems that are then inspected by an editor who resolves any discrepancies. Data is then exported to the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences – statistical software used extensively in survey research.

RESPONSE RATE

The number of completed surveys was 2977 for a response rate of 28.8%.

MISSING VALUES

Questions which respondents left blank and those with multiple responses (except in several cases) were considered missing values and were not included in the “valid percentages”. In cases where multiple responses were allowed or where noticeable numbers of respondents marked more than one answer were not treated as missing.